I.P.C. was registered against unknown persons in the police station Indri on 23.08.2006. After investigation, the police made an untraced report.

No house of dalits has been reported to has been torched in Salwan in March, 2007.

Setting up of learning institutions for mentally challenged

4237. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to open learning institutions for the mentally challenged children and adults to bring about an improvement in their abilities and to ensure that they get proper care;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when it is expected to be opened and their locations; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) A number of Special Schools for the mentally challenged, run by voluntary agencies are being supported under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme. Further, a number of schools are run by State Governments. New schools are opened by NGOs/State Governments depending upon local requirements.

Welfare scheme for SC, ST and weaker sections

4238. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans and programmes to uplift the conditions of SCs and STs and weaker sections of the society in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of funds allocated during the last three years under the above, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The mandate of the Ministry is to implement various welfare schemes/ programmes for the educational, economic and social development of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes.

(b) and (c) The Ministry implements about 30 welfare schemes/ programmes which *inter alia* includes Post Matric Scholarship for SCs, SCA to SCSP, Pre-Matric Scholarships to children of those engaged in unclean occupations, Pre and Post Matric Scholarships for OBCs and other schemes relating to disabilities and social defence. The details of schemes/programmes and the funds released for the last three years are available in the Annual Report of the Ministry.

Grants for old age homes

†4239. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided by Government for operation, maintenance and medical facilities to an old-age home with the capacity of 25 inmates;

(b) whether this fund is adequate keeping in view the present inflation alongwith the details thereof;

(c) the number of old-age homes in the country being provided such assistance alongwith amount provided to each of the old-age home, State-wise;

(d) whether Goyernment are considering to enhance this amount; and

(e) if not, whether Government will consider on that?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The NGOs running Old Age Homes are provided assistance to provide for basic needs under the scheme of an Integrated Programme of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.